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## ABSTRACT

A surface-mountable interface module is attached to a central surface portion of a composite structure to interface with an optical transmission means embedded in the composite structure. The module has a mating surface for coupling to the composite structure to define an intersection between the module and the central surface portion, and contains interface optics to manipulate light that, in use, passes between the module and the optical transmission means through the intersection. A 'smart' variant of the module contains interrogation means for interrogating a sensor system associated with the optical transmission means, and power means for powering components within the module.